



Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

February 2007

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Please note our new P.O. Box and Zip Code.

Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Sheila Barnett at

smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov.

Program Manager Training at the Recycling Conference

On May 1 and 2, the Virginia Recycling Association will hold its annual conference in Williamsburg, in partnership with the Virginia Council for Litter Prevention and the SWANA Old Dominion Chapter. The conference will be held at the Woodlands Hotel & Suites in Williamsburg.

The litter track topics for new litter managers include:

Program Administration – Litter & Recycling Fund grant applications, performance accounting methods, and job descriptions.

Project planning – Cleanup, beautification, recycling and forestry programs

Community Outreach – Examples of community outreach programs

In-School Programs – Correlating Standards of Learning and your programs, fun education programs, getting into schools; and Resources – Educational, information and procurement links and resources.

For more information about the litter programs contact Clara Mills at (540) 507-7709 or cmills@spotsylvania.va.us

Early bird registration ends March 1, 2007. Go to: <http://www.vrarecycles.org/conference.htm>

Trout in the Classroom Project

Students in **Henry and Patrick County** and the **City of Martinsville** are participating in a program called "Trout in the Classroom." The students raise the trout and study them.

In April of 2007, 5th Grade Science Teacher Charles Way will take his students on a field trip to release the fish in a stream approved by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. To further help the fish's environment, the class will also conduct a stream bank clean up.

For more information, Contact John Ross, chairman of the Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited. (540) 592-7020 or jross@crosslink.net.

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Smith River Clean up Success

Sixty-five people participated in the Smith River Cleanup which was held on February 9 and 10, 2007 along the banks of Reed Creek. Lois Christensen, Director of the Gateway **Streetscape Foundation**, which serves **Henry County** and the **City of Martinsville** scouts where she wants groups to clean up and focuses on different clean up sites each time. She said that they collected 8.43 tons of debris this time which is the most that they have collected in one pick up.

Ms. Christensen recommends that other litter managers plan winter clean ups for the following reasons:

- ✓ It is easy to see the trash
- ✓ There are no snakes
- ✓ Poison ivy is not a problem
- ✓ Picking up heavy pieces of debris is hard work, so it helps to have the cool weather.

Contact Ms. Christensen at (276) 634-4674 or gateway@co.henry.va.us

Assign-a-Highway Newsletter is Available

The Assign-a-Highway program now has a quarterly newsletter. In the first edition, you will find a lot of uplifting news about this litter prevention program. Highlights of the newsletter include:

- ✓ There are presently 20 localities implementing the program across the Commonwealth.
- ✓ The City of Norton is the first city to have adopted the program and will serve as a model to other cities wishing to implement the program too.
- ✓ A table shows the cost savings to some of the localities that have utilized the program. The savings are based upon a value of a person working at the minimum wage rate of \$5.15/hour.

To read the newsletter, go to:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/lprevention.html>.

For more information about Assign-a-Highway, go to the website at: <http://www.assignahighway.com/>

Check out Virginia's Jurisdiction Litter Web Sites

Recently, some of the Virginia Litter Council members mentioned that they would like to go to one spot to be able to see each other's litter website. I modified the DEQ Litter and Recycling Manager's Contact list to include direct links under the litter manager's name to the litter page for that locality. Go to <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/contactlist.html> to look at your litter page and those of your colleagues.

Please let me know of any contact information that needs to be updated. Is there other information that you would like for me to include on the DEQ litter website for you?